

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01062

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: NEWS SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING IS REVIEW OF MARCH 23 NEWS ARTICLES ON

RHODESIA.

2. NY TIMES CARRIED TWO ANALYSES ON EVENTS IN RHODESIA.

MICHAEL KAUFMAN IN A SPECIAL TO THE TIMES REPORTED ON THE UNITY AND DISUNITY OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. HE WROTE, "UNDER PRESSURE OF AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA THAT COULD WIN RECOGNITION FROM THE OUTSIDE, THE LONG-DIVIDED AND MUTUALLY SUSPICIOUS WINGS OF THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENT RESISTING SUCH A SETTLEMENT ARE SEEKING TO FORGE THE APPEARANCE OF GROWING UNITY...REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO GUERRILLA GROUPS ARE OSTENSIBLY CONFERRING ON A SET OF PROPOSALS CALLING FOR INCREASED COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION OF THEIR WAR EFFORT...THERE IS NO REAL EVIDENCE THAT THE TWO ZIMBABWE NATIONALIST ORGANIZATIONS ARE DRAWING ANY CLOSER...THE TWO OPERATE FROM DIFFERENT, FAR-REMOVED BASES AND RECEIVE ARMS AND TRAINING FROM DIFFERENT BACKERS." KAUFMAN ADDS THAT TWO ZANU MEMBERS ARE ON TRIAL NOW FOR ALLEGEDLY HAVING UNAUTHORIZED CONTACTS WITH ZAPU. IN DISCUSSING THE EARLIER ASSUMPTIONS BY ZANU

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THAT NKOMO IS REINING HIS FORCES AND ALLOWING ZANU TO SUFFER LOSSES SO THAT HE CAN SWEEP IN AND DEFEAT SMITH AND ZANU, KAUFMAN REPORTS A CONFIDANTE OF MUGABE SAYING, "NOW NKOMO WILL HAVE TO FIGHT. HE MAY NOT WANT TO, BUT HE HAS NO CHOICE. IF HE DOES NOT FIGHT NOW HE WILL LOSE COMMAND OF HIS ARMY AND HE WILL LOSE THE RESPECT AND BACKING OF THE FRONT-LINE STATES." SPEAKING OF ZAPU'S

THOUGHTS ABOUT ZANU, KAUFMAN REPORTS, "THEY CONTENDED THAT THE MOZAMBIQUE-BASED ORGANIZATION LACKED DISCIPLINE AND THAT IT HAD HISTORICALLY BEEN RIDDLED WITH FACTIONS." KAUFMAN CONTINUES, "ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WAS IN BOTH CAMPS A DISCERNIBLE HOPE EXPRESSED AT THE UPPER ECHELONS THAT IN THE CURRENT SITUATION THE TWO GROUPS COULD AT LEAST STOP BEING ENEMIES." HE QUOTES MUGABE: "EVEN IF WE CANNOT FORM TRUE UNITY, AT LEAST WE CAN AGREE ON COMMON STRATEGY, COMMON PROGRAMS AND COMMON PERSPECTIVES. THE PROBLEM OF UNITY IS THAT WE CANNOT ALL OF A SUDDEN FORM UNITY BETWEEN PARTIES WHICH WERE SEPARATED AND, FRANKLY SPEAKING, FIGHTING EACH OTHER FOR 15 YEARS."... JOHN BURNS REPORTING FROM SALISBURY ANALYZES HOW EFFECTIVE THE INTERNAL PACT WILL BE. HE REPORTS, "ON THE DAY AFTER THREE BLACK LEADERS JOINED PRIME MINISTER IAN D. SMITH IN A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, IT WAS BEING ASKED HERE WHETHER THE NATIONALISTS WOULD HAVE REAL AUTHORITY OR HAVE BEEN CO-OPTED INTO AN ADMINISTRATION THAT WILL PERPETUATE THE PREFERMENT OF WHITE INTERESTS TO BLACK." HE CONTINUES, "NEXT WEEK, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL APPOINT THE SECOND TIER OF THE TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION, AN 18-MEMBER MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OR CABINET, IN WHICH WHITES AND BLACKS WILL BE EQUALLY REPRESENTED, WITH EACH OF THE NINE POSTS BEING HELD JOINTLY BY A BLACK AND WHITE MINISTER." SPEAKING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, BURNS WRITES, "BUT THE AGREEMENT ALSO PROVIDED THAT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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RULING BODY WILL OPERATE BY CONSENSUS, MEANING THAT EACH OF THE FOUR LEADERS RETAINS A VETO. ON SOME ISSUES SUCH AS DESEGREGATION IN EDUCATION, IN HEALTH CARE AND IN HOUSING, THERE WILL BE POWERFUL PRESSURES ON MR. SMITH TO BLOCK MOVES TOWARD BLACK EMANCIPATION...BLACK SUSPICIONS HAVE BEEN AROUSED BY THE DISCLOSURE THAT MR. SMITH RECENTLY SCRAPPED THE 11-MEMBER WAR COUNCIL...SINCE MR. SMITH AND OTHER WHITE MINISTERS SAT ON THE WAR COUNCIL, THE DECISION APPEARED TO REMOVE POLITICIANS FROM IMMEDIATE INVOLVEMENT IN MILITARY MATTERS...THE CONCERN AMONG BLACKS WAS THAT THE CHANGE COULD BLOCK THEM FROM EFFECTIVE INFLUENCE ON MILITARY POLICY, A CRUCIAL MATTER FOR THEM SINCE THEY HOPE TO PERSUADE THE 5,000 GUERRILLAS NOW RANGING THE COUNTRY TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS." BURNS ALSO WROTE, "BLACKS ALSO ARE ASKING WHETHER MR. SMITH GAVE HIS PARTNERS ACCESS TO ALL PERTINENT GOVERNMENT INFORMATION. ALREADY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN POINTING ANXIOUSLY TO THE BLACK LEADERS' HABIT OF PASSING MINUTES OF CONFIDENTIAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH MR. SMITH TO THE PRESS...WITHOUT FULL BRIEFINGS, THE NATIONALISTS COULD FIND THEMSELVES LIKE OFFICERS ON THE BRIDGE OF A STORM-TOSSED SHIP WHO HAVE NO LINE TO THE ENGINE ROOM."

LOOKING AT WHITE RESERVATIONS, BURNS REPORTS, "MR. SMITH HAS TO PRESENT THE ACCORD FOR APPROVAL TO THE EXISTING, WHITE-DOMINATED ELECTORATE, A REQUIREMENT THAT HE MAY CITE AS A REASON FOR NOT MOVING SWIFTLY TO DISMANTLE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND RELEASE BLACK POLITICAL PRISONERS, ANOTHER MATTER ENTRUSTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. ALREADY, A RIGHT-WING FACTION, THE RHODESIA ACTION PARTY, HAS BEGUN CAMPAIGNING AGAINST THE AGREEMENT, CALLING IT A CAPITULATION." ...AN AP DISPATCH REPORTS ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA URGING THE US TO TAKE

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THE LEAD ROLE IN THE BRITISH-AMERICAN SEARCH FOR GENUINE BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA. KUANDA SAID, "WITHOUT IN ANY WAY MEANING TO MINIMIZE THE ROLE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT MUST PLAY, UNLESS THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TAKES THE FRONT SEAT IN THIS WHOLE EPISODE WE MAY NOT FIND THE CORRECT SOLUTION." DISPATCH ALSO QUOTES SMITH'S COMMENTS TO AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN SALISBURY: "I'M SURE I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU OF THE COMMUNISTS' MARCH DOWN AFRICA. I THINK THAT THE ONE THING THAT MIGHT HELP US IS THAT THE FREE WORLD NOW BELIEVES THAT THE RUSSIANS MIGHT COME FURTHER DOWN INTO THIS PART OF THE WORLD, AND IF THE FREE WORLD SITS BACK AND ALLOWS THAT, IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY BECAUSE THIS IS A LITTLE PART OF AFRICA WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE FREE WORLD." IN THE SAME DISPATCH SITHOLE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID HE FEELS MOST OF THE GUERRILLAS WILL ACCEPT THE SETTLEMENT AND LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS... "THERE WOULD BE NO RECRIMINATIONS." FROM DAR ES SALAAM, AP REPORTS U.S. REP. DIGGS, WHO VISITED NYERERE, AS SAYING THAT BRITAIN AND THE US ARE JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE "TO SEE THAT

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN FINALLY PREVAILS"...DIGGS SAID
BRITISH AND AMERICAN ABSTENTIONS ON A UN RESOLUTION
DECLARING THE RHODESIAN AGREEMENT ILLEGAL "MAKES ONE
WONDER ABOUT THE WILL OF THE PRINCIPALS IN SUPPORTING
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THEIR OWN PROPOSALS." LEONARD

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